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Daily Highlights

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, endorsing results of Cambodian election, supports newly elected constituent assembly; asks Secretary-General to report back by mid-July on possible United Nations role after end of UNTAC mandate.

+ Military leaders of three parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina sign cease-fire agreement in Sarajevo; will cooperate with UNPROFOR and permit delivery of humanitarian relief.

+ Human rights are "irreducible human element" -- quintessential values affirming that "we are a single human community", Secretary-General tells World Conference in Vienna.

+ James Speth confirmed by General Assembly as new UNDP Administrator, effective 15 July; says he will support "sustainable human development"; hopes to invigorate commitments made at UNCED.

+ Actions by UNOSOM II in Mogadishu strongly supported by Security Council in Presidential statement last night; Ambassador of Pakistan says world community should not flinch from challenge posed by General Aidid.

+ Secretary-General and Russian Foreign Minister sign agreement establishing new United Naitons integrated office in Russian Federation.

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The Security Council today endorsed the results of last month's Cambodian election, which had been certified free and fair by the United Nations, and called on all parties to stand by their obligation to respect them and to cooperate in a peaceful transition of power. The Council took that action by adopting unanimously resolution 840 (1993).

The Council welcomed Prince Norodom Sihanouk's efforts towards national reconciliation and his leadership and continuing role in maintaining stability

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and in promoting cooperation among Cambodians. It said it fully supported the newly elected constituent assembly, which had begun to draw up a constitution according to the Paris Agreements and would transform itself into a legislative assembly and establish a new government. The resolution emphasized that that work should be completed as soon as possible.

The Council asked the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) to continue to play its role during the transitional period. The Council also asked the Secretary-General to report to it by mid-July, including recommendations on the possible role for the United Nations in Cambodia after UNTAC's mandate ends.

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The military leaders of the three parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina today signed a general agreement to halt the conflict in the Republic as of noon on 18 June. The agreement was reached at a meeting in Sarajevo chaired by Lieutenant-General Lars-Eric Wahlgren, Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR).

The agreement referred in particular to Security Council resolution 824 (1993), which established safe areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and resolution 836 (1993), which authorized UNPROFOR to use force if those areas or humanitarian convoys were attacked. The three parties agreed to cooperate with UNPROFOR, which would monitor the cease-fire, and to permit the delivery of humanitarian relief and freedom of movement for agents of international humanitarian organizations.

The parties also agreed to continue negotiations, under the auspices of UNPROFOR, in order to resolve the crisis in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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Human rights are not the lowest common denominator among all nations, but "irriducible human elements" -- the quintessential values through which we affirm together that "we are a single human community", Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali told the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna yesterday.

With the development of communications, he went on, the whole world was called to witness the free enjoyment, or the violation, of human rights. Because judgements were based on that scale of norms and values, it was also part of power stakes, the Secretary-General said. That was probably why some States sought to appropriate human rights for their own benefit, even turning them into an instrument of national policy. There was no denying that "some States constantly try to hijack or confiscate human rights", he said.

The Secretary-General called on the Conference to be guided by the "three imperatives of Vienna" -- universality, guarantees and democratization. It was now "less urgent to define new rights than to persuade States to adopt existing instruments and apply them effectively". The United Nations was

obligated to help States along the road to democratization and to set up a "civics workshop on a global scale".

The universal character of human rights, transcending national borders and common to all mankind, had brought the representatives of the world community together at the World Conference on Human Rights, Alois Mock, Foreign Minister of Austria, told the Conference yesterday.

The newly elected Conference President went on to say that the universality of human rights, as well as the rejection of dual standards, must form the basis of the work of the Conference. In the next two weeks, the Conference would be challenged to strengthen and further improve that system of human rights, which was part and parcel of the objectives of the United Nations as conceived by the founding fathers.

Today in Vienna, the Secretary-General continued his meetings with world leaders, including President Dawda K Jawara of Gambia.

He also met with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Portugal, Jose Manuel Durao Barroso, with whom he discussed the situation in East Timor, Angola and Mozambique. He then met the President of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kiro Gligorov. They discussed the situation in the former Yugoslavia and the efforts in preventive diplomacy being pursued in that Republic.

The Secretary-General was also expected to meet separately with President Sali Berisha of Albania; President Ion Iliescu of Romania; Foreign Minister Redha Malek of Algeria; Vice-Foreign Minister Liu Hua Qui of China; Foreign Minister Rashid Alimov of Tajikistan; Foreign Minister Amre Moussa of Egypt; and Foreign Minister Javier Solana Madariaga of Spain.

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James Gustave Speth was today confirmed by the General Assembly as the new Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), following his nomination by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. He will replace William Draper, who had announced his resignation effective 15 July.

Mr. Speth told correspondents at Headquarters that he would support a new model of development called "sustainable human development", whereby the benefits of economic growth would be distributed equitably, resources would be sustained for future production, and people would be empowered to participate in decisions affecting their lives. The United Nations had a key role to play in that model, as the goals of peace, human rights and environmental quality would not be realized without sustainable human development.

A United Nations agenda for development would be an essential complement to the Secretary-General's "An Agenda for Peace", Mr. Speth said. He hoped the UNDP could invigorate the commitments made by Governments at last year's United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). More resources were needed for humanitarian relief, peace-keeping and helping

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economies in transition, but not at the expense of funds needed to tackle the underlying causes of those problems. "It's pay now or pay later on promoting sustainable human development, and to pay later will be far more expensive", he added.

Mr. Speth was a senior advisor to President Clinton's transition team and headed a group examining the United States' role regarding natural resources, energy and the environment. In 1982, he founded the World Resources Institute, a centre for policy research on environmental and development issues.

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The actions carried out recently by the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) were strongly supported by the Security Council in a Presidential statement issued last night. The actions followed unprovoked attacks on UNOSOM II by Somali gunmen on 5 June, which caused the deaths of 23 Pakistani peace-keepers.

Responding to the Secretary-General's interim report on the situation in Somalia, the Council said UNOSOM II's actions were part of a continuing programme to disarm the country and neutralize all heavy weapons. The main objective of UNOSOM II was to end the plight of the Somali people. Law and order had to be restored to enable it to deliver humanitarian assistance and promote national reconciliation and reconstruction in Somalia.

The Council expressed deep regret at any civilian casualties caused, and said that an investigation was underway into the incident on 13 June, in which United Nations peace-keepers had fired on demonstrators. Preliminary reports indicated that General Aidid and his supporters had used civilians, including women and children, as human shields for attacks on UNOSOM II, it noted.

Meanwhile, the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, Jamsheed Marker, today told a press conference that the events of the past ten days in Somalia had raised the question whether Member States had the political will to utilise the Organization for the active preservation and promotion of peace and security. Somalia's General Aidid had challenged the very concepts of United Nations peace-keeping and peace enforcement, he said.

The world community should not flinch from this challenge; if it did, the hope of United Nations enforcement in other situations such as Bosnia and Herzegovina would have to be relinquished, Mr. Marker said.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and Andrei Kyzyrev, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, today signed an agreement regarding the establishment of a United Nations integrated office in the Russian Federation. The signing ceremony took place in the Secretary-General's conference room at the Austria Center Vienna.

The new office, to be located in Moscow, will incorporate units of the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other agencies.

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